

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-309, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we encourage you to help every American student achieve success and be ready for college, career and life by providing \$2.3 billion for the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program, Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This program provides states and school districts with formula funding that ensures that educators, principals and school leaders receive the professional learning and leadership skills needed to support every student.

Title II, Part A is central to improving educational practice and increasing achievement. According to a 2015-16 US Department of Education survey, 66% of school districts allocated at least some of their Title II, Part A funds for professional development activities for teachers and paraprofessionals particularly for our nation's highest poverty districts. It is also increasingly focused on supporting the highest poverty schools. Even before ESSA's passage, the Department of Education's 2015-16 survey found that 47% of this funding went to the highest poverty districts. Under ESSA's new funding rules, Title II, Part A's formula is even more weighted towards poverty than under the previous formula, ensuring that the schools (and students) most in need will see the most assistance.

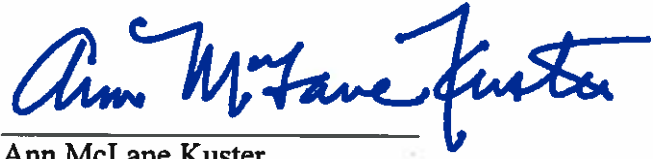
Overwhelmingly approved by a bipartisan Congress, ESSA provided new opportunities for states to use Title II, Part A funds to invest in principal leadership, and support and job-embedded professional learning opportunities for teachers – all evidence-based strategies that will lead to improved student outcomes. Any reduction in funding to this program would undermine state efforts to implement their ESSA plans and have real and significant ramifications for America's educators and their students. Every dollar lost from Title II, Part A would mean: reduced professional learning for teachers to increase content knowledge and improve classroom practice; reduced professional learning to support principals in becoming outstanding leaders; reduced daily content and instructional support for teachers through instructional coaches and mentors; fewer master teachers to design, develop and assess professional learning; reduced recruitment and hiring of teachers leading to larger classes; and reduced implementation support for personalized learning for each student.

The recent spending caps deal struck by Congress has allowed for increased spending for vital programs like Title II, Part A in FY19. Supporting the people responsible for educating our nation's children should be a priority and we respectfully request that you do so by providing the fully authorized funding level of \$2.3 billion to the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program.

Sincerely,



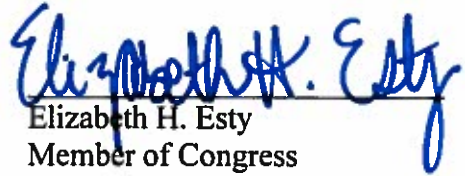
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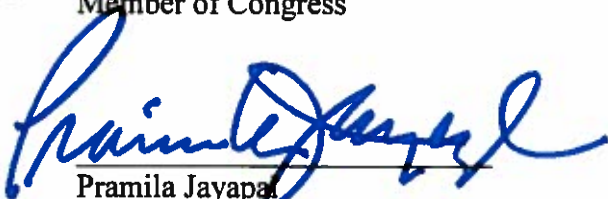
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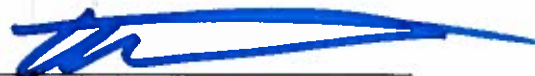
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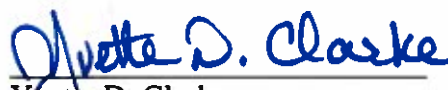
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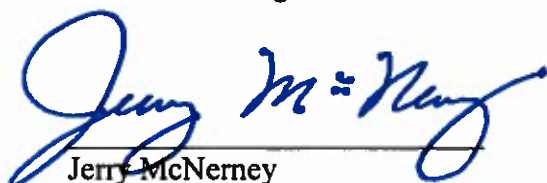
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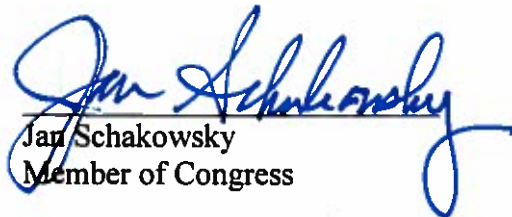
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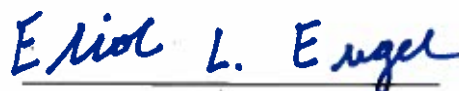
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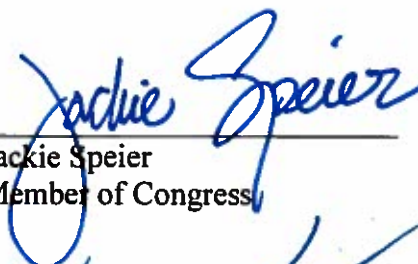
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